



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

**Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson**

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**Tuesday, May 21, 2013**

**7:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

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### REGULAR MEETING

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#### **I. ROLL CALL**

*The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Mayor Somers.*

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Schmidt

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.*

#### **II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Nicki Bresnyan.*

#### **III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS**

##### **Memorial Day**

*A moment of reflection was observed in honor of Memorial Day. Mayor Somers read a poem by Roger Loiseau entitled, "Fallen Heroes." She then expressed the Town's gratitude for the faithful service of its veterans and active duty residents.*

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

**2013-0107 Cell Tower on Gary Court**

**Heard at Public Hearing**

*Mayor Somers called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:52 p.m.*

*The Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to a resolution passed by the Town Council was read by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.*

*There being no citizen comments, Mayor Somers closed the Public Hearing at 7:53 p.m.*

#### **IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*Michael Lowell, 12 Meryl Court, is concerned that the \$3.5 million appropriated at the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District Annual Meeting will be insufficient to run the fire district and it may force bankruptcy. The fire district makes contributions to the Town's pension program for its employees and Mr. Lowell wondered whether the Town would be liable for those pensions if the fire district went into bankruptcy.*

*Sean Paddock, 2 Plymouth Avenue West, after being granted an appeal by the State Board of Firearms Permit Examiners, is still concerned about the local process for issuing pistol permits.*

#### **V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*The Town Manager will check with the Police Chief regarding current practices.*

#### **VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**a. Approval of Minutes****2013-0138 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 7, 2013 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**b. Administrative Items****2013-0136 Special Trust Fund Contributions****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Phil Butta - \$30.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Charles Rogers - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund

Maria and Johnny Armaos - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Robert and Phyllis and Robert Boggs - \$7.47 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Raymond and Virginia Bousquet - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Elizabeth Colson - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Henry and Patricia Durham - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Fort Hill Counselors - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Marian Galbraith - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Dennis Haines - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Dolores Haury - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Darrell and Dorothy Haynes - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Paul and Dorothy Huber - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Nancy Jewett - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Charles and Janet Kepner - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Barbara Loso - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Saranne Murray - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Virginia Richards - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Richard and Melinda Richardson - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Stebbins Real Estate - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Emily Thomas - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

John Trahey - \$35.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Sadie Tremblay - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Gail Tyler - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Barbara Warner - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Beverly Washington - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

Barbara Weeman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**

*None.*

**VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)****a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor Johnson stated that Opening Day for the Mystic Schooners will held June 9, 2013.*

*Councilor Flax received a request for the Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee to fill a vacancy on the Historic District Commission.*

*Councilor Watson participated in stocking clams in the Poquonnock River.*

*Mayor Somers announced her intention to form an ad hoc committee to promote Groton as the Submarine Capital of the World." She would like to create a welcoming atmosphere for the Town's veterans and active military personnel. The Mayor noted that April is Military Child Month and she read a proclamation that was presented at the SubBase.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*The RTM concluded its annual budget session on May 20, 2013. The next regular RTM meeting will be held on June 12, 2013.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*The Town Clerk attended a Rotary Club meeting and a Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality (MASH) meeting. She reminded citizens that June is the month to renew dog licenses.*

**d. Town Manager**

*The Town Manager noted that Town offices will be closed Memorial Day, May 27, 2013. He noted that the change of command at the SubBase will be held May 31, 2013; a statewide Trails Day will be celebrated June 1, 2013; a dedication ceremony for the rowing shelter will be held June 7, 2013; and the annual Flag Day celebration at the Mystic Flag Pole will be held on June 14, 2013. Mr. Oefinger announced that John Carrington has been promoted to Manager Utilities Division. He noted that the Police Department has increased the number of hours designated for processing pistol permits.*

**e. Town Attorney**

*No report.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Finance - Chairman Morton**

*No meeting, no report.*

**f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax**

*No meeting, no report.*

**g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter**

*No meeting, no report.*

**h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas**

*No meeting, no report.*

**i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers**

*Mayor Somers noted that the Committee of the Whole held discussions regarding potential items to*

*be sent to referendum in November.*

## IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*Councilor Streeter volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee to promote Groton as Submarine Capital of the World." He stated that he is in the process of writing a book that highlights local veteran memorials, and noted that fundraising is ongoing to upgrade the Veterans' Memorial Park between the Groton Public Library and the Senior Center.*

## X. NEW BUSINESS

### 2013-0128 RTM Reapportionment

#### RESOLUTION APPROVING COMPUTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, Section 4.2.2 of the Town Charter requires the Town Clerk to determine within sixty days after redistricting of the Town, the representation by voting district proportional to the number of electors residing in such district, and

WHEREAS, as of the redistricting, the following districts and number of electors in each district is as follows, and therefore, by computation, the number of representatives for each district is as follows,

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF ELECTORS	NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES
1	3,441	7
2	2,221	4
3	2,821	6
4	3,119	6
5	2,744	6
6	3,596	7
7	2,652	5
Total: 20,594	Total: 41	

Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the above membership representation is hereby approved, effective for the Town of Groton's November 2013 municipal election.

**This matter was Tabled.**

*By consensus, this item has been tabled to allow time to consult with the Town Attorney.*

### 2013-0137 Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction Design Agreement

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND ESTIMATES FOR CRYSTAL LAKE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager, is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Groton for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates for Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction utilizing Federal Funds under the Urban Component of the Surface Transportation Program."

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

## XI. OTHER BUSINESS

*The Mayor noted that State Senator Andrew Maynard is working on obtaining signage on Route I-95 and Route 27 to direct people to downtown Mystic.*

*In answer to the Town Clerk, Councilor Antipas stated that he will ask the Town Attorney for an interpretation of the Town Charter regarding reapportionment calculations.*

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*

*Lori Watrous, Office Assistant*